

West Monmouth School

Ysgol Gorllewin Mynwy



Curriculum Policy

Polisi Cwricwlwm

Date Approved by Governors:

Date Reviewed by Governors:

WEST MONMOUTH SCHOOL – CURRICULUM POLICY

1. Opening Statement

West Monmouth School is committed to achievement through the promotion of excellence within a vibrant, purposeful working environment, which respects the rights and needs of all individuals, so that our pupils are able to acquire the skills for adult life.

This curriculum policy is founded on the principle that children are unique individuals who have differing aptitudes and abilities. They all live in the same complex and fast changing world and in order to do so successfully, they will need a broadly similar range of skills, personal qualities, knowledge and understanding. They learn at different speeds and they are motivated by different experiences.

It is essential that all pupils to the age of 16 have a set minimum range of experience and an 'entitlement curriculum'. At the same time it is essential that this is provided in such a way that it motivates children of all abilities and aptitudes and takes account of the personalised learning agenda.

2. Aims

West Monmouth school aims to provide a curriculum which

- 2.1 meets legal and course requirements;
- 2.2 is broad, balanced, flexible, accessible and inspiring that meets the needs and interests of learners and responds to the needs of employers and the wider community;
- 2.3 provides coherence, continuity and progression;
- 2.4 promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life;
- 2.5 promotes learners' bilingual skills and reflects the languages and culture of Wales;
- 2.6 promotes diversity and tolerance;
- 2.7 promotes Education for Sustainable Development & Global Citizenship;
- 2.8 develops entrepreneurial and other skills needed to support economic development and
- 2.9 reflects national priorities for lifelong learning and community regeneration.

These aims are delivered by the statutory curriculum and by a range of cross-curricular and extra-curricular activities. By implementing a variety of effective teaching methods and efficient curriculum management and review, we aim to create an ethos of high achievement, personal challenge and mutual respect.

The whole-school focus to our curriculum is to create a learning culture. This is part of a long-term strategy to raise achievement by equipping pupils with the skills to become independent and inter-dependent life-long learners. To this end we are 'committed to achievement'.

3. Outcomes

3.1 The Informal Curriculum

All aspects of school life, especially the relationships between pupils and staff and pupils and pupils contribute to the informal curriculum which is determined by a combination of the values, attitudes, expectations and perceptions of the staff and pupils. The key to the success of West Monmouth School has been the fact that this quality of the informal curriculum reinforces every aspect of the formal curriculum. Thus, staff and pupils will strive to respect every individual in the school, to value each person as an individual and to show concern and appreciation for all.

3.2 The Formal Curriculum

Pupils will be taught a curriculum which is based upon the principles of breadth, balance and relevance, which includes experiences of all the following areas:

- Linguistic and Literacy
- Mathematical
- Scientific
- Technological
- Human and Social
- Physical
- Moral and Spiritual
- Aesthetic and Creative

These areas of experience are not discreet subjects, but rather each subject will contribute to a number of these areas. The focus will be on the development of skills, the development of personal qualities, the understanding of concept and the assimilation of knowledge.

A wide variety of teaching styles will be employed in order to accommodate the pupils' preferred learning styles. The development of Skills is a priority for all staff.

Continuity and progression will be ensured across all Key Stages. Traditional GCSE courses and a full range of vocational options will be made available, as appropriate to the needs of the pupils and as a result of annual curriculum review.

The school will continue to develop its links with other educational establishments/providers via the Torfaen 14-19 Network to ensure that the curriculum meets the needs and interests of the pupils.

4. Procedures

- 4.1 The curriculum manager will plan a curriculum that provides continuity and progression between all Key Stages.
- 4.2 The curriculum manager will plan a curriculum that is carefully costed and approved by the Governing Body.
- 4.3 Subject Leaders and departmental staff will plan a broad, balanced curriculum for their subject areas that meets the needs of learners and meets legal and course requirements.
- 4.4 Subject teachers will prepare stimulating lessons that employ a wide variety of teaching and learning styles to meet the needs of the learners
- 4.5 When planning lessons, subject teachers will take into account pupils who have additional learning needs (including MAT) and differentiate the work accordingly.
- 4.6 Effective targets, set using data as detailed in the ARR policy, will be used to support the curriculum planning in all departments and across all Key Stages monitor ongoing performance against these indicators.
- 4.7 The school will ensure that a broad range of vocational subjects are available alongside the traditional GCSE and Entry level.
- 4.8 The school will collaborate, where prudent, to ensure the wide range of courses on offer is maintained and extended.
- 4.9 Partnerships will continue to be developed with other schools and colleges through the Torfaen 14-19 Network and private provider trainers (Torfaen Training, Coleg Gwent) will be used where applicable to deliver courses that meet the needs and interests of some of the pupils at the school.

5. Monitoring and Review

- 5.1 The curriculum manager, in conjunction with SLT and Subject Leaders will review the curriculum policy annually and inform relevant bodies of any further recommendations resulting from the review.
- 5.2 The Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher, pupils, staff and parents, will regularly review this policy and associated procedures in order to ensure its continuing effectiveness.